FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hardiman to Chair Senate Family & Human Services Committee

(LANSING) – Senate Majority Leader-elect Ken Sikkema today announced that Senator-elect Bill Hardiman will chair the Senate Committee on Family and Human Services for the 2003-2006 legislative session.

"I look forward to my new responsibilities as chair of the Family and Human Services committee," said Hardiman, R- Kentwood. "While this assignment will present many exciting challenges, I am eager to work with my new Senate colleagues – Republicans and Democrats alike – to pass legislation that will benefit the citizens of Michigan."

Hardiman will be responsible for overseeing committee legislation that deals with family and human service issues including the Family Independence Agency, mental health and legislation that addresses work and labor issues.

"Mayor Hardiman has proven that he possesses the leadership abilities necessary to address the issues facing this committee," Sikkema, R-Wyoming said. "I am confident that he will work diligently with Republicans and Democrats alike in order to benefit the residents of Michigan."

Bill Hardiman served as Mayor of the city of Kentwood prior to his election to the state Senate. He was born and raised in Grand Rapids and received his master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University. Senator-elect Hardiman, a Vietnam veteran, also serves on numerous business and community boards and councils in the Grand Rapids area.